The Quiet Corner

THE ARTS, DINING, ANTIQUES, ATTRACTIONS & SO MUCH MORE...

PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 28 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2010

For An Afternoon, A Day, Or A Weekend...Come And Enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!

Equine events at Tyrone Farm, Pomfret - Photo courtesy of Tyrone Farm

Like a beautiful painting...northeastern Connecticut is now blanketed with a tapestry of color. Travel Route 169–a designated National Scenic Byway–to enjoy the fall foliage and scenic beauty that this region is so famous for. Along the way you'll discover museums, art galleries, unique shops, fabulous restaurants, and a total of 189 structures that date before 1855. Enjoy holiday shopping that is inspiring and fun. Meet local business owners, restaurateurs, and artists who thrive on making your visit to northeastern Connecticut something to remember. Attend one or more of the Walktober Events throughout the region. Pick-your-own apples, visit a corn maze or winery, enjoy a live performance at the Bradley Playhouse, paint your own pottery or take an art class. For a day, a weekend, or longer there is something here for everyone!

INSIDE:

A calendar of events...Local Advertisers...start your ***Holiday Shopping*** early in northeastern Connecticut... visit the ***Roseland Cottage Fine Arts and Craft Festival***,

enjoy the ***Open Artists Studios Tours***, ***Putnam's Holiday Strolls*** throughout December, and be sure to ***shop locally*** throughout the season...

Meet Charlie Coombs...A Woodworker of Extraordinary Skill...***Giving Back With a Lot of Heart***...learn about local charitable events and the people who make them happen...then attend and offer your support!... ***Tyrone Farm Autumn Equine Events...***include charity rides, an historic Hunter Pace and a colorful hunt complete with fox hounds, elegant tack and a coterie of skilled riders on beautiful horses...***Discover MARS***... Music at Rectory School is a program that is growing fast offering private music lessons taught by professional musicians to community members of all ages...and so much more!

Downtown Putnam & Area Maps • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Calendar of Events

Northeastern Connecticut is Forty-Five Minutes from Casinos, Hartford, & Providence
Twenty Minutes from Worcester • One Hour from Boston • Three Hours from New York City

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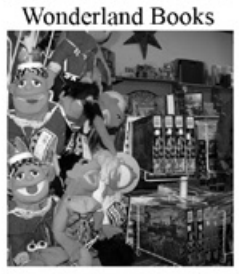
Jeremiah's Antiques

Wonderland Books



Courthouse Bar & Grill

Sawmill Pottery

Glimpse of Gaia

The Arc Gift Shop

Wonderland Comics

Someplace Special Restaurant

Gallery by the Falls

85 Main Cuisine

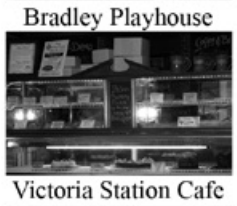
Jessica Tuesdays

Bella's Bistro

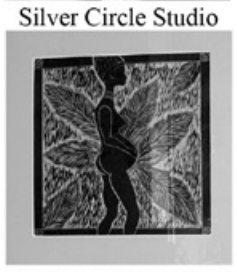
Daisy's Couture

Bicycle Concepts

Bradley Playhouse


Victoria Station Cafe

Silver Circle Studio



Daisy's Couture

Woolworks

Vintage to Vogue

Arts & Framing

Boston Magazine Reports
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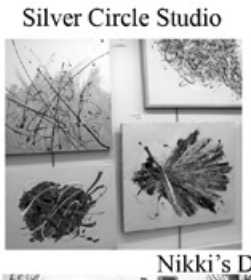
Main Street Grille

Silver Circle Studio



Arts & Framing

Nikki's Dog House

Unique, Local

Holiday Shopping

BY DOT BURNWORTH

Labor Day is behind us...days are getting colder...and the holidays are right around the corner.

It happens every year. The gift-giving season, which should be one of joy and cheer, turns into a season of stress and strain. Sadly, during the days and weeks leading into the holidays you can usually find me rushing around, drinking extra coffee to push more hours into each day. I know I'm not alone in this. Finding gifts should be an opportunity to reflect on how much my loved ones means to me. Instead, it has forced me grudgingly into big box stores and malls that I'm normally quite successful at avoiding. This, in turn, puts me right into a spirit that is most decidedly not holiday-worthy. This year, though, I'm taking a stand. I'm going to enjoy the holiday season for everything it has to offer, including gift-buying. With that goal in mind, I've made a schedule of unique opportunities in the Quiet Corner to make my shopping experience this year one to look forward to.

FIRST STOP: The Roseland Cottage Fine Arts and Crafts Festival on October 16 and 17. This two day festival takes place from 10-4:30 each day on the grounds of the historic Roseland Cottage in Woodstock, CT. The festival is one of the leading juried fine arts and crafts shows in New England and features 175 artisans and their wares – jewelry, woodworking, pottery, clothing, metalwork, and much more. As you shop your way through this outdoor marketplace, you'll enjoy live music. You can plan to spend most of the day there, eating lunch right behind the cottage in the "food court." If you've gotten your fill of the beautiful art and crafts, you can enjoy first floor tours of Roseland Cottage. Locals know this show well, and find themselves returning year after year to see what is new. Deborah Welch of Woodstock CT faithfully attends the show every year, siting "Quality craftsmanship, friendly people and a beautiful setting" as her reasons for coming back year after year. Elaine Cavanaugh of Pomfret says, "It is early enough in the season for you to take the time to find something for the difficult-to-shop-for person. I go without a shopping list. Each year, I see new things that are different and special. The artists all bring the best of what they make." Sold. I'll be there.

The very next Saturday (October 23), you'll find me in Putnam at the second annual Great Pumpkin Festival. Besides special sales, food vendors, music and entertainment happening all over town, there will be more artists and craftspeople. Karen Osbrey, chairwoman for the festival committee, explained that there will be over 80 vendors spread throughout town. This year, there will also be kids' events at various locations, such as clay pumpkin carving and painting at Sawmill Pottery. What a relief to not have to worry about keeping the kids happy and content while trying to get some shopping done. Here's an event that is family friendly. I might even pick up some locally grown and produced honey or maple syrup at the special farmer's market planned as part of the festival.

After the festivals, I've got about a month until my next shopping "event." I plan to spend that month perusing the fabulous local shops in downtown Putnam. One of my favorite new shops is Glimpse of Gaia on Main Street. In addition to being a full service florist, they have a unique selection of vintage and local art gifts. Just the other day, I popped in and discovered some great handbags made from recycled clothing. The perfect gift for my discerning and hard-to-shop-for sister. From that storefront, I can turn either right or left and find treasure troves on either side, in Wonderland Books (not just for books), Daisy's Couture (more than just clothing), and Vintage to Vogue (antiques are just the beginning). Walk toward Union Station and shop at Silver Circle Studio (art gallery & hand crafted affordable gifts.)

Moving along, November 20th is the Saturday before Thanksgiving. I'll be needing a hostess gift, so I'll head to the Farmer's Market pavillion in Putnam, where the Putnam Arts Council is once again gathering some of the finest local artists for their Holiday Market from 10-3. Cynthia Saari, glass bead artist from Woodstock, raves, "The Putnam Arts Council has done a great job of putting together this invitational show. All of the participants bring unique, good quality work to a fun, informal setting. I enjoy shopping as well as showing my work to area residents and visitors. The Putnam Holiday Market allows me to offer pieces, which I might otherwise send out to galleries, in a local venue that benefits my community and makes holiday shopping more personal. The market has a special energy."

That brings us to Thanksgiving and the onslaught of the family that overstays their welcome. By Friday, I'm going to be desperate for an activity for the group that doesn't include getting to the mall before the sun rises and elbowing my way through a crowded Black Friday sale. That's why I've blocked off November 26-28 to tour Northeast CT during the Artists Open Studios Tour. If you've never embarked upon this art

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adventure, you're missing out. Working artists open their studios to the public. Many of them will be demonstrating throughout the event. Bryony Carter, a jeweler who participates in the tour realizes that the opportunity to see inside an artist's studio and talk to people about how they do what they do makes it a different experience than shopping in a mall or even in a gallery. It becomes more personal. Before you start, find the special AOS map, or download it from the website, **www.aosct.org.** With 80 artists' studios spread out over 29 towns, it will be impossible to hit them all. We'll have to either pick one medium, and visit all the artists of that type, or maybe we'll work our way from town to town. Either way, Artists Open Studios will keep the whole family busy for days. And, after everyone has gone home, I have another opportunity the next weekend, December 4 & 5, to revisit the artists I didn't see enough of.

Just thinking about all the wonderfully unique treasures I might find this year is making me more excited about the holidays. I'm seeing it now as less of a bother, and more of an excuse to get out and enjoy the many festivals and events coming up locally. I'm recognizing an opportunity to spend less money on gas to drive myself to the overcrowded mall. I'll get to spend that extra cash on a little something special for myself! With the extra time I'll have saved–I'll get the chance to explore the wonderful shops in town that I never make time for throughout the year.

Putnam, though small in size, is so rich in resources. It hasn't always been this way, and it might not always continue without the support of shoppers like you and me. With more people choosing so-called "convenience" (remember that 45 minute drive each way!) over shopping locally, the future of our sweet town is not set in stone. Carol Perkins, owner of CoCo's Cottage in Woodstock, knows all about this as a local business owner. She tipped me off about the 3/50 project. This is an awareness building organization that brings to light how easy it is to make a difference in your local economy and how important it is to, as they put it, "save the brick and mortars our nation is built on." The statistic that really hits home for me is: 68% of money spent in independently owned stores returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only 43% stays here. Spend it online, and nothing comes home.

Wonderland Books, Putnam

Arts & Framing, Putnam

Silver Circle Studio, Putnam

Antiques Marketplace, Putnam

By the beginning of December, I hope to have most of my shopping done. That will free me up to enjoy Putnam's Holiday Strolls. Many shops in town participate in this holiday season tradition, staying open late on the Fridays leading up to Christmas. Sheri Socher, owner of Arts and Framing, loves this tradition. She explained, "It's a community gathering. People come out and socialize. It is a very 'New England' type of thing." She paints a quaint portrait of the strolls, remembering one friday night last year, "It was snowing, and there were these beautiful Newfoundland dogs walking in the snow." Many people probably don't realize that Sheri, in addition to her custom framing, offers a variety of affordable gifts, including jewelry, fused glass, and sushi dishes. The holiday strolls are the perfect time to discover what all the wonderful Putnam shops have to offer in a relaxed atmosphere. I am looking forward to the respite it brings during the hectic days before Christmas.

WOW! This year, I'm all local. How about you?

Helpful Resources for Local Shopping & Events:
Roseland Cottage – www.historicnewengland.org
Artists Open Studios – ww.aosct.org
Downtown Putnam – www.discoverputnam.com

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Meet Charlie Coombs

A Woodworker of Extraordinary Skill

Charlie Coombs is a man to admire. He has taken the skills he learned as a child from both of his grandfathers and turned them into an exciting third career in life.

BY NANCY WEISS

His Grandfather Brown, a farmer from Suffield, gave him a beautiful chest, full of tools Coombs uses everyday. From his great grandfather, Coombs, a boat builder in Essex, Charlie inherited another chest, also a constant source of utilitarian items. The massive pieces, designed for work as well as beauty, are icons for an immaculate workshop, which would make any ancestor proud.

As he stands comfortably, hands on hips, smiling broadly from beneath the fringe of his white mustache, Coombs surveys his immaculate Pomfret workshop with affection.

He and his wife, Paige, purchased the 18th century property, which includes a central hall Colonial and a shed, which became the workshop, several years ago. They carefully restored the grounds and buildings into a gracious residence and productive place for Coombs to recreate the antique forms he admires so much. Coombs and Paige, who excels as a decorator, furnish their home with beautiful reproductions, mixed in with antiques from both of their families and from purchases they make from friends, at shows and shops.

Charlie Coombs knows that while life offered him many adventures, including a stint with the American Hockey League, racecar driving, and managing a network of dealerships for the boat company, Boston Whaler, creating beautiful furniture out of carefully chosen wood fills his days with satisfying work. A list of orders for furniture extends well into the future.

Charlie Coombs worked with his first set of tools as a child, growing up in Essex, Ct. "When I was around 4 my grandfather Brown built me a little work bench.
I remember working at it in the kitchen of our home. My son used it and how my grandson works on it."

Coombs maternal grandfather's work chest was passed on to his grandson in the 1970's and stands on the left as one enters the Pomfret workshop. The tools it contains while now antiques are used often in the construction of the furniture Charlie Coombs works on nearly every day. Charlie Coombs specializes in "high country" style furniture produced, most appropriately, under the name Coombs and Brown. Every piece of furniture or decorative item made by Coombs bears a label with that name and the date it was crafted. While many artists sign their work, Charlie Coombs acknowledges the raw material by listing where the tree came from that is the source of the furniture wood.

In 1991, Coombs knew it was time to change careers. He gave his notice to the president of Boston Whaler Company, who accepted it reluctantly. On the first day of retirement Coombs walked into his workshop addressed his ancestral chests, saying– "Gentlemen, let's go to work."

To educate himself in the intricacies of 17th and 18th century furniture, the Coombs visit museums through out the region for inspirations and specifics. At the Flynt Museum in Deerfield, Mass. artisans are welcome to measure and study pieces in the collection. Other institutions including Shelburne and Winterthur welcome close inspection of their furniture. Coombs

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THOMPSON – The landmark Samuel B. Watson home is in a historic district just off Thompson Hill's town green. On 1.80 acres this 1767 home has just undergone extensive renovations and additions. Its 5333 square feet feature the best of everything and include professional landscaping, a porte cochere and a new 40x40 barn! **Asking $700,000. www.374ThompsonRoad.com**

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also studies auction catalogs to understand the specific qualities of various pieces. Coombs has a special affection for New England furniture. "Proportions are everything. New England old timers had it right," he says with a smile.

Charlie and Paige participate in one or two major shows each year, where they meet old friends and develop new customers. Many are returning patrons because Coombs works with buyers to make sure that he is fabricating the item they imagine. "It is really important for me to understand what my customer sees in his mind's eye. I know what their house looks like. My goal is for each piece to fit in a house furnished with antiques and not stand out." Coombs said.

For the first time during the summer of 2010, Coombs did a show in Putnam at the home of artist

Barbara Lussier, which was in Coombs words, " a great show."

Every year he and Paige travel to the Bedminster Traditional Artisans Show in Pennsylvania. The forty pieces brought to the show, attract a crowd of collectors of high style country furniture. Items are sold from the floor or customers are invited to place orders, which Coombs lines up in his schedule. Sometimes patrons are eager to purchase something, but are unsure as to exactly what they want. A Coombs reserve a time slot for them and gives them space to think about the piece they desire.

Whether making a complex case piece, a Windsor chair or a dining room table, Coombs takes great pains to finish the items appropriately. He wants the finish to look thin and old, so he has developed his own methods for painted or oiled items. For painted furniture, he mixes his own milk based paint, often applying one color over another so that when chipped, the under color will show through. He may apply fourteen to sixteen coats, slowly building layers and allowing the paint to age. In the end, he will distress and mark the pieces making them appear as if they have endured years of wear and tear.

Authenticity is important at Coombs and Brown, so Charlie has developed a network of suppliers for hinges, drawer pulls, grain painting, hand-made nails, antiqued leather and blown glass.

A handsome gin box with four bottles, blown by Coombs' friend, a Williamsburg artisan, is part of the collection of smaller pieces Coombs makes to sit on tables or hang on the wall, like the gaily decorated candle boxes and pipe holders.

As sunshine streamed though the window of the Coombs home in Pomfret on to the soft, green glass bottles, one could almost believe it was 1790 and refreshment was being offered by a genial host to travelers alighting from a horse drawn coach.

Charlie Coombs grandfather and great grandfather gave him two handsome chests. With his own industry and artistry, he honed his natural talents and became a woodworker of extraordinary skill. From his Pomfret home, he does exactly what he likes to do while bringing to the rest of the world, items of beauty, authenticity and utility. Charlie Coombs has much to smile about. **To contact Coombs and Brown call 860-928-2905.**

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Giving Back

with a lot of heart

Windham County may be the least wealthy in the state but it seems to have the biggest heart. Charitable and volunteer organizations abound, from faith-based associations to non-profit agencies to grassroots groups supporting friends and family in crisis. It seems like every week a variety of fundraising events are scheduled in the Quiet Corner to support a range of worthy causes. The economy hasn't rebounded the way we would like, but residents and local businesses are still reaching into their pockets and offering time, energy and financial support to give back to their communities.

BY CRIS CADIZ

For over twenty years the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group or TEEG has served the regional community through food and fuel assistance, mentoring and anger management, holiday giving and many other programs. TEEG receives funding from federal, state and municipal levels but last year, donations from the community added over $100,000 to their annual budget.

"The level of giving in Northeastern Connecticut is always amazing," says Donna Grant, Executive Director of TEEG. "We have tremendous donors that most of the area's philanthropic organizations have in their list of annual givers. But there are so many middle class and lower income donors who also give what they can. I think it's because so many are personally connected to someone who is 'walking the walk' or know someone who has experienced cancer or hunger or needed hospital care or even has participated in the local cultural arts. They feel connected to the work that is being done and they feel supported by it."

Grant feels that this "foundation of overwhelming generosity" arises from the area's robust "fabric of community." She points to the example of downtown Putnam's economic revival and the sense of energy one feels there. "East Woodstock has its 4th of July Jamboree. Pomfret has its Memorial Day Parade. Each town has its own homey, grassroots events that bring everyone together...they erase the divide between the haves and have-nots and emphasize that we are all in this together and collectively we can meet our needs."

Pegi Breckel has been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Northeast CT since 1994. She is currently on the Board of Directors, serving as Secretary. Habitat for Humanity of Northeast CT is celebrating its 15th anniversary of providing decent, affordable housing to families in need in a ten-town area. "Thanks to the community, our Habitat ReStore, newly relocated to 171 Providence Street in Putnam, has been enjoying success for over seven years," says Breckel. "In fact, very soon we plan to start Thursday evening hours in addition to our regular Friday, Saturday and Sunday hours." The Habitat ReStore sells new and gently used building, home improvement materials and other home goods at a fraction of normal prices. The ReStore depends on donations from local residents and businesses. In addition to keeping these materials out of landfills, sales help fund Habitat's building program—including the latest project in Brooklyn, CT.

> "Our community has been very supportive of the work we do," says Breckel. "Some churches donate money on an ongoing basis while others donate space for meetings or fundraising events; skilled tradesmen and women have donated huge amounts of time on the builds; local community banks tend to be very generous with donations of time and money; local attorneys have donated their time and expertise; and both small and large businesses have funded radio and print advertising for special projects."

Recently, Breckel was approached by Jean Barton of Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes in Pomfret. This local business created an event specifically to support Habitat for Humanity of NECT. "Chair-A-Tea" is a special art sale that celebrates Habitat's 15 years serving the community. Starting October 8, an original "Art Chair" created by an area artist will be unveiled every Friday and—hopefully—sold. A portion of each Art Chair sale will be donated to Habitat. The benefit will run for 15 weeks and culminate in a "Chair-A-Tea Party" at Celebrations' Tea Room on January 22. Half of the ticket price ($15) for this special Tea Reception will be donated to Habitat and a check will be presented during this gala. "This fundraiser was the creation of Celebrations Gallery," says Breckel. "It is one of the more truly unique and novel ideas for a fundraiser. In the past we have benefited from golf tournaments, auctions, spooky hayrides and even a huge rummage sale hosted last year by local Realtors for Habitat, however, the 'Chair-A-Tea' is a one-of-a kind event."

The creativity and generosity of the various ways that the community gives seems boundless. Breckel specifically notes two instances that she felt were very special, including one local manufacturing company that been donating the past several years through payroll deductions. "Some of the employees authorized the payroll department to deduct a specific amount of money from each paycheck and those funds come directly to us. Now that is solid support." The other special gift is a song written by local musician and performer Sally Rogers called "We Will Build This House." During Habitat's 10th anniversary in 2005, Sally performed the song with Frederick Moyer, a classic pianist who donates a concert for Habitat each year. They recorded the performance and Sally included the song on a CD to benefit Katrina school victims. The CD will be available for sale at the ReStore.

"Financial support has slowed a bit during this economic downturn so a special event, such as Celebrations' "Chair-A-Tea" is greatly appreciated," says Breckel. The official kick-off for the upcoming Habitat Brooklyn build is Friday, October 15th at Tyrone Farm

continued on page 12

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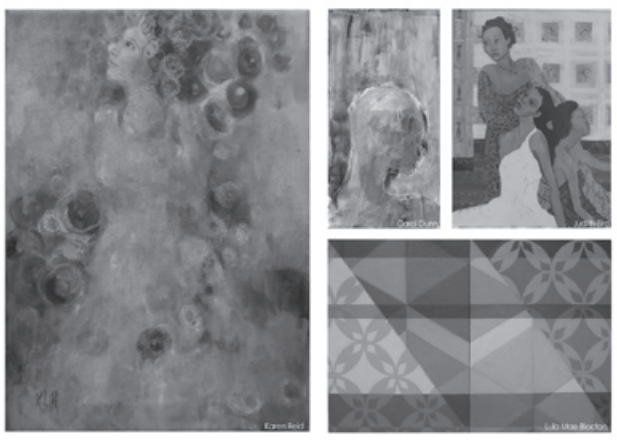

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DKH Deary Memorial Cancer Fund

DKH DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE

SILVER CIRCLE STUDIO
Oct. 6 - Nov. 14, 2010

Artist's Reception:
October 8, 6:00 - 8:00pm

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Shirley Bernstein
Judith Bird
Lula Mae Blocton
Julie Caprera
Cheryl Cianci
Christina Cirillo
Carol Dunn
Elise Fargnoli
Jennifer Flanagan
Annie Gusman Joly
Bernice Harmyk
Cindi Kasek
Frances Kornbluth
Donna Lange
Wendy Lavigne
Audrey Mucci
Rena Masson
Vanessa Martel
Carly Martin
Cheryl Martin
Joanna Matuck
Jean Murphy
Karen Reid
Ann Rosebrooks
Pragati Sharma
Lindsay Shaw
Wendy Stone
Janice Law Trecker

BRADLEY
Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut
30 Front Street (Rt. 44) Downtown Putnam, Connecticut

THE CRUCIBLE
October 22, 23, 29 & 30 at 8:00 pm • October 24 & 31 at 2:00 pm
Arthur Miller's 1953 Tony Award winning play is the compelling story of the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem. This gripping historical drama is a timely parable of our contemporary society.
Non-Musical: $13 seniors/students & $16 adults

A Christmas Carol
December 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18 at 8:00 pm • December 5, 12 & 19 at 2:00 pm The often bizarre and ultimately heartwarming story of Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, and Tiny Tim tells the classic tale of greed and selfishness. Forced to review his life and those around him, Scrooge's redemption brings change to a world of sadness and want.
Non-musical: $16 for Adults • $13 for Students/Senior Citizens

Tickets Available at:
Wonderland Books, 120 Main St., Putnam, CT
Victoria Station Cafe, 91 Main St., Putnam, CT
For reservations call 860-928-7887 or online at
www.bradleyplayhouse.org ~ *All seats general admission*

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www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com

Putnam Traveler's Weekend Trip Planner

WHERE TO STAY, DINE & BE ENTERTAINED...

Walktober - photo by James Cutler

❖ FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK IN:

Check into the new ***Hickory Hill Bed and Breakfast*** **(www.hickoryhillbandb.com)** located in Pomfret Center, CT. Travel back in time to when life was simpler and days were unhurried, when tranquil moments and nature soothed your soul. This Circa 1793 Colonial has been tastefully restored and sits majestically upon a knoll, surrounded by mature Sugar Maples and Pines. The exterior of the fieldstone fireplace boasts English Ivy that strives to climb to the stars. Hickory Hill features two guest rooms with shared bath and private guest parlor. The setting is perfect for a family or for couples who do not mind sharing a bath. For reservations or more information, contact innkeepers Judi & Andy Mitchell at hickoryhillbb@charter.net or call 860-963-0306.

❖ FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER:

Enjoy authentic northern Italian cuisine at ***Bella's Italian Bistro*** **(www.bellasbistromarket.com)** located on Main Street in Downtown Putnam. Recently voted 'Best New Restaurant' by Connecticut Magazine, Bella's features fresh seafood, beef & pork, topped with incredible sauces, spaghetti & meatballs, and fabulous grilled pizzas. This restaurant is BYOB, but if you call ahead, they will make arrangements to have your favorite wine or beer ready for you. In addition, the staff at Bella's makes this dining experience one to remember.

❖ SATURDAY MORNING:

Most B&B's include breakfast, but if not, enjoy breakfast at the ***Vanilla Bean Café*** **(www.thevanillabeancafe.com)** located in Pomfret Center. The menu changes seasonally. Today, they are offering Fish & Crab Cake Benedict, Pumpkin Pancakes, a Turkey Omelet and Veggie Pesto Scrambled Eggs. The Vanilla Bean also serves lunch & dinner and features live music every Saturday night.

❖ SATURDAY MID MORNING:

Paint your own pottery at ***Sawmill Pottery*** **(www.sawmillpottery.com)** located in downtown Putnam. Great for holiday gift giving–Sawmill offers dinnerware, holiday items, sculptural pieces, and more. The cost is $10/hour to paint plus the cost of the bisqueware, which currently ranges from $3-$36. Paint your own hours are 10-4pm on Saturday.

❖ SATURDAY LUNCH:

Grab lunch at ***Someplace Special Restaurant*** **(www.someplacespecialrestaurant.com)** located in downtown Putnam. Recently renovated, featuring casual American Italian cuisine, Someplace Special has something for everyone. Enjoy freshly prepared entrees such as Lobster Ravioli, Chicken & Veal Parmesan, and Mussels Marinara. They also serve sandwiches, wraps, salads, pizza and burgers, all at a great value. Dine inside or out on the new patio!

❖ SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

Enjoy a little Holiday Shopping! The Quiet Corner is full of small, unique retail shops offering charming settings and treasures you won't find just anywhere. Pomfret features ***Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Martha's Herbary, Pomfret Spirit Shoppe, and HAZELWOOD Gallery of Fine & Functional Art.*** Woodstock features ***Garden Gate Florist & Gift Shop, Coco's Cottage, The Flying Carpet Studio, Scranton Shops, Mrs. Bridges Pantry, Taylor Brooke Winery,*** and more. Putnam features the ***Antiques Marketplace, Sawmill Pottery, Arts & Framing, Glimpse of Gaia, Daisy's Couture, Woolworks Yarn Shoppe, Silver Circle Studio, Abigail's Jewel Box, and more!*** For more information about area shops visit the following websites: **www.visitpomfret.com, www.explorewoodstock.com and www.discoverputnam.com.**

❖ SATURDAY EVENING:

Make reservations for dinner at the ***Mansion at Bald Hill*** **(www.mansionatbaldhill.com),** tucked away in a private setting in beautiful Woodstock, CT. This premier restaurant features an eclectic seasonal menu utilizing local organic farms to provide guests with the highest quality ingredients, prepared with passion and presented with an artistic flair by a team of experienced award-winning chefs. The Mansion at Bald Hill is also a bed and breakfast featuring six exquisite guest rooms. Plan ahead and make reservations early!

❖ SUNDAY MID MORNING:

Get outside and hike, walk, or ride the trails of northeastern Connecticut. Enjoy miles of nature trails at the ***Connecticut Audubon Center*** in Pomfret **(www.ctaudubon.net).** Adn be sure to visit **www.thelastgreenvalley.org** to learn about the many ***"Walktober"*** walks and paddling events planned for this fall! The multitude of special events featured during Walktober includes two different corn mazes in Sterling and Thompson, CT, the Brimfield Antique Auto Show in Brimfield, MA, the Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival at Roseland Cottage in Woodstock, CT, and the Willimantic Art and Co-Op Festival in Willimantic, CT, featuring the works of a multitude of artists, musicians and theatrical performers.

Thank you for visiting northeastern Connecticut...

MUSIC AT THE RECTORY SCHOOL

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J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

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- All classes after school in Rectory's Tang Center.
- Call Jacqueline Smith, Director: 860-963-7640.

860-963-7640 The Rectory School 528 Pomfret St., Pomfret, CT 06258 www.rectoryschool.org

The Woodstock Merchants Association welcomes you!

Experience the charm of a gentler time and place on the Heritage Trail in Connecticut's "Quiet Corner."

Explore Woodstock

Antiques, crafts, florists, produce, furniture, pottery, lodging and much more

For more information, annual events and a complete list of merchants visit:

WWW.EXPLOREWOODSTOCK.COM

Calendar of Events

October

Month of October
Walktober
The annual event includes free guided walks, rides and paddles, and promotes events associated with the mission of the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor.
www.thelastgreenvalley.org

8th (through 1/22)
"Chair-A-Tea" Art Sale
to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Northeast, Connecticut
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes, Pomfret, CT
In honor of this organization's 15th Anniversary, 15 artists will each create an original Art Chair. Over 15 weeks, these chairs will be displayed and sold. Celebrations will donate a portion of each Art Chair sale to Habitat for Humanity of Northeast Connecticut.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

Roseland Cottage Craft Festival

16th-17th, 10-4:30pm
(Rain or Shine)
Annual Fine Arts & Crafts
Festival at Roseland Cottage
Woodstock, CT
This festival is one of the leading juried fine arts and crafts shows in New England and features 175 artisans and their wares - jewelry, woodworking, pottery, clothing, metalwork, and much more. Enjoy live music, a food court, and first floor tours of Roseland Cottage. Admission: free to Historic New England members and children under 12, $5 nonmembers
www.historicnewengland.org

22, 23, 29 & 30th @ 8pm
24 & 31st @ 2pm
The Crucible
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
Arthur Miller's 1953 Tony Award winning play is the compelling story of the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem. This gripping historical drama is a timely parable of our contemporary society.
Non-Musical: $13 seniors/students & $16 adults
www.bradleyplayhouse.org

23rd
2nd Annual Northeastern, CT Pumpkin Festival & Craft Fair
Putnam, CT
Featuring live music, a huge craft fair, pumpkin carving, kids events, pumpkin cuisine from local restaurants, and much more!
www.discoverputnam.com

29th
Putnam's Trick-or-Treat Night
Downtown Putnam
Businesses from Jessica Tuesday's to Jade Garden Restaurant will hand out free candy to the kids. Safe and fun! www.winyradio.com

November

27th through Dec. 22nd
Holiday Nature Store
Audubon Center at Pomfret, CT
Gifts for all ages, with mother nature in mind. Bird feeders, houses and seed, gardening gifts, nature books and items for children, field guides, Christmas plants, nature jewelry, gift baskets, holiday swags and more.
www.ctaudubon.net

26th-28th
Holiday Open House
Woodstock Merchants
Visit Woodstock Merchants during their Holiday Open House Weekend!
www.explorewoodstock.com

26th-28th
Open Studio Tour 2010
of Northeastern, CT
Artists Open Studios presents more than 80 artists in as many studio locations! While you enjoy the variety and quality of the artwork, you will be supporting art, artists, and a valuable tradition in the Quiet Corner. Admission is Free.
www.aosct.org

28th @ 5pm
Razzle Dazzle Light Parade
Downtown Putnam
It's a festive, fun-filled, illuminated holiday parade to celebrate the spirit of the season!
www.winyradio.com

December

Month of December
Friday Night Holiday Strolls
Downtown Putnam
Every Friday from Thanksgiving to Christmas, the shops in Old Towne Putnam will be open to help with your holiday shopping! Come stroll the streets of Putnam, peruse the shops, grab a bite to eat or a hot Latte or Cappuccino, and soak up the holiday spirit!
www.discoverputnam.com

Museum Shop Holiday Fair
Thompson Historical Society
Thompson, CT
Holiday gifts, gift wrap, decorations.
New items added regularly.
www.thompsonhistorical.org

4th-5th
Open Studio Tour 2010
of Northeastern, CT
Artists Open Studios presents more than 80 artists in as many studio locations! While you enjoy the variety and quality of the artwork, you will be supporting art, artists, and a valuable tradition in the Quiet Corner. Admission is Free.
www.aosct.org

4th
Saint Nicholas Victorian Fair
Pomfret, CT
Christ Church's popular Holiday Fair with 'themed booths' that cater to various shopping specialties, free admission.

BRADLEY

3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18th @ 8pm
5, 12 & 19 @ 2pm
A Christmas Carol
The often bizarre and ultimately heartwarming story of Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, and Tiny Tim tells the classic tale of greed and selfishness. Forced to review his life and those around him, Scrooge's redemption brings change to a world of sadness and want. Non-musical:
$16 for Adults
$13 for Students/Senior Citizens
www.bradleyplayhouse.org

26th @ 4pm
Santa is Coming to Putnam
Rotary Park, Putnam
Free candy canes, hot chocolate & cookies.
www.winyradio.com

On Going Events

Arts & Framing
Putnam, CT
860-963-0105
www.artsandframingputnam.com
Features art exhibits throughout the season.

Connecticut Audubon Society - Center at Pomfret
Pomfret, CT
Lots to See & Do
Pomfret, CT
860-928-4849
www.ctaudubon.net

Performing Arts of NECT
Hyde Cultural Center
Woodstock, CT
www.performingartsnect.org
Offers live musical and theatre events throughout the year.

The Vanilla Bean Cafe
Pomfret, CT
860-928-1562
www.vanillabeancafe.com
The Vanilla Bean features live folk music every Saturday @ 8 PM. and displays artwork from local artisans.

Roseland Cottage
Woodstock, CT
www.historicnewengland.org
Roseland Cottage is offering tours, teas, concerts, and encampments throughout the year.

Silver Circle Studio
Putnam, CT
860-963-2900
www.silvercirclestudio.com
Features local artwork and art exhibits throughout the season. Offers a range of workshops and art classes for all ages.

Abbie Barrett @ VSC

Victoria Station Cafe
Putnam, CT
860-928-2600
www.victoriastationcafe.com
Victoria Station Cafe features live music on occasion throughout the season.

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in Pomfret. This "Raise the Roof" fundraiser will feature a good, old-fashioned barn dance. In addition, Realtors for Habitat will hold their second annual rummage sale on Saturday, October 23 at donated space on Providence Street in Putnam.

"Every penny goes to support local women and men for mammograms, and education," says Pat Hedenberg of DKH, regarding the Deary Memorial Cancer Fund. "The fund offers scholarships for area residents to attend school to become a registered radiographer. Last year the fund paid for 43 mammograms, two ultrasounds, one core biopsy, one surgery, lab tests and two oncology therapies."

"After being diagnosed with breast cancer last spring, my mother in law moved up here from Florida to receive care from DKH," explains Silver Circle Studio owner Carly Martin. "I wanted to give directly back to them for this event. Last year I donated to the Breast Cancer Coalition Fund, but I wanted to keep it ALL local this year. The community was very supportive of the event last year. Everyone is affected by breast cancer in some way; so many people feel compelled to get involved or are inspired by our efforts. Our community is particularly passionate about rallying for a worthwhile cause."

Another "creative" fundraiser this fall is the 2nd Annual Women's Show: A Breast Cancer Benefit, sponsored by Silver Circle Studio in Putnam. From October 6 to November 14, this show will feature 25 local female artists, and Silver Circle Studio will donate 10% of gallery proceeds to the Day Kimball Hospital Deary Memorial Cancer Fund. Artists Rebecca Leonard, Taylor Martin, Dorothy Drobney, and Amanda Densmore have donated artwork to raffle. In addition, 10% of many of the gallery's retail items will also go towards the cause... last year some vendors created "pink" themed items specifically for the cause. An Opening Reception is scheduled for Friday, October 8 from 6-8PM.

Cancer is fought hard in the Quiet Corner from every imaginable approach, from art shows to walking (Relay for Life) to running (Deary Memorial Road Race—in its 21st year) and even from horseback. In 2000, Quiet Corner residents Pam Townshend and Amy Jakowski combined their love of horses and their desire to join the battle against breast cancer by starting the Komen Connecticut Ride for the Cure, which benefits the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Connecticut. This year, Ride for the Cure celebrates its 10th anniversary and has challenged itself to enlist 150 riders and raise $150,000. The event takes place Sunday, October 3 at Tyrone Farm in Pomfret.

"Our first Ride in 2001 registered about 70 riders and raised about $40,000," says Townshend. "Since then we have grown to about 120 riders yearly and have raised over $700,000. Ride for the Cure has also mentored Rides in several other states with 8 events around the country in 2010 and many more planned for 2011. Most of our riders are Quiet Corner residents and have participated in the event for many years. Additionally, many local businesses have supported the event through cash and in kind donations."

"We have limited number of riders in past years to 100 with the goal of raising $25,000," explains Jakowski, "but we have exceeded that amount every year and raised almost $100,000 in 2009. We have had riders come from as far away as Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Cape Cod to participate in our event. Our success over the past 10 years has been dependent on the hard work of our dedicated committee members, the wonderful and numerous volunteers, the beautiful venue at Tyrone Farm, the many local supporters and—the most important people—the riders who have raised the donations in support of the women whose courage they honor."

Non-riding supporters can go to **rideforthecurect.org** or **komenct.org** and contribute to individual riders. Ride For the Cure also welcomes donations of in kind gifts or services for door prizes. "The money raised at the Ride will be invested locally in Connecticut-based education, screening and treatment programs. Until we find the cures for breast cancer, we feel it's essential that the women of Connecticut have access to the services they need to take charge of their breast health because, we know that when breast cancer is caught early, the survival rate is 98 percent. We're working to ensure that all women in our communities have access to the care they need." Anne Morris, Komen Connecticut's Executive Director.

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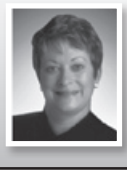

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Explore MARS

Despite the planetary connotation, MARS is a program involving music. The acronym stands for Music at Rectory School. MARS is a community music education program founded by Jacqueline Smith, Chair of Performing Arts at Rectory School in 2004. The program offers private music lessons taught by professional musicians to community members of all ages. MARS's home is the Tang Performing Art Center on the campus of Rectory School in Pomfret.

BY CRIS CADIZ

As a musician herself and 25-year veteran in music education, Smith saw a need for private music instruction in northeastern Connecticut. Students who wanted one-on-one instruction had to drive to UCONN or beyond for private music lessons. Smith also saw the potential for her school to fill this gap. "I had this idea because I saw many of the teachers here leaving at 2:30 to teach elsewhere..." she explains. Rectory School sports programs begin at this time and the academic halls grow quiet. In addition, Rectory School's beautiful P.Y. and Kinmay Tang Performing Arts Center, built in 2001 by a generous donation from an alum is the perfect venue. The Tang Performing Arts Center is built into a hillside on campus and boasts a 230-seat, state-of-the-art auditorium plus music classroom and office space. Smith realized she had the potential to offer something special to the Quiet Corner community.

"At 3PM when the Rectory School kids go to sports, MARS comes to life," says Smith. "We use every available space for teaching. And since this is an after-school program, it's not unusual to see kids lining the hallways doing their homework." MARS lesson space includes a large instrumental music room, an office, an instrument closet, even nooks at the ends of hallways become places to make music. Students take lessons once a week for 30 to 60 minutes. Each nine-week session costs $306. The trimester approach is designed to help kids (and parents!) who might also play sports during the year. Semi-private lessons (for siblings or parent/child) are also available. Every June students can perform in a recital in the impressive Tang Auditorium.

Dayna Flath's daughter Hannah has attended MARS since its inception, taking piano, voice and guitar. "She's always loved the teachers she's had, and though it's not her favorite thing to do, the recital at the end of the year is an excellent experience for her and all the kids. The program has very talented, wonderful teachers and is very organized which is helpful for parents. Jackie [Smith] does a great job running it." Flath's younger daughter Paloma started piano at MARS last year with Ericka Beckwith. She loved it and will continue this year.

"Even if it doesn't become a life-long thing, I think learning to play an instrument and read music is incredibly important for our children, especially in this age when a lot of music and the arts have been cut from schools," says Flath. "It gives them a whole new way to express themselves and to look at the world. "

The MARS program started seven years ago with about a dozen students. This year there are over 60 students from age four through adults and 17 teachers. Students range from complete beginners to high school seniors working on college auditions. The faculty is top-notch. "Although it's not an official one, we have a great relationship with UCONN. Now that we are in our seventh year, UCONN grads and some 5th year students know us and come to teach here," says Smith.

MARS instructors include Dr. Linda Neely, Associate Professor of Music at UCONN; Dr. Cristian Pastorello, who has performed internationally and teaches at the University of New Haven; and local jazz phenom Anders Vercelli among other professional musicians and educators.

Every year during late winter, the faculty also puts on a concert. "This is not a student recital," says Smith. "These are professional musicians. The teachers really look forward to it...we just don't have time to make music together." The purpose of this faculty performance is dear to Smith's heart and an important part of what makes the MARS program special. The faculty concert raises several thousand dollars, 100% of which goes directly into a scholarship fund.

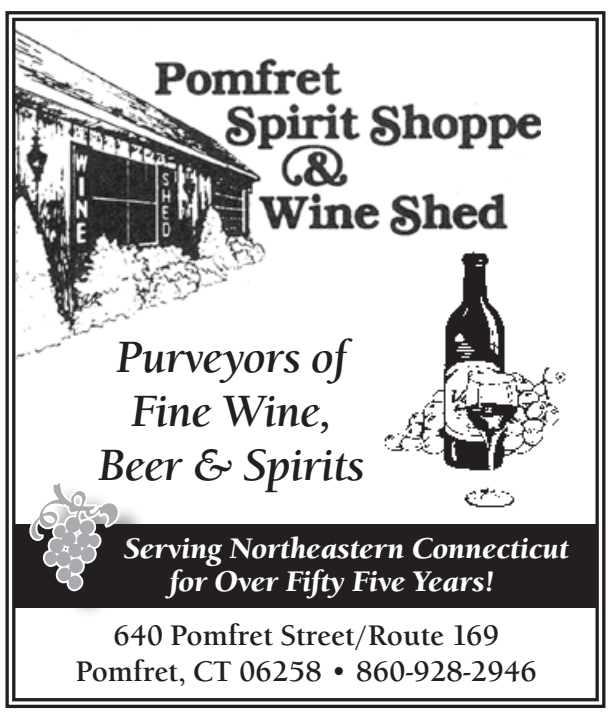
Financial aid is awarded to eligible families through a partnership with local organization Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG). Students do not need to audition for lessons at MARS. Anyone who desires music education can participate, and the MARS scholarship program ensures that even children who ordinarily couldn't afford private lessons have access to them.

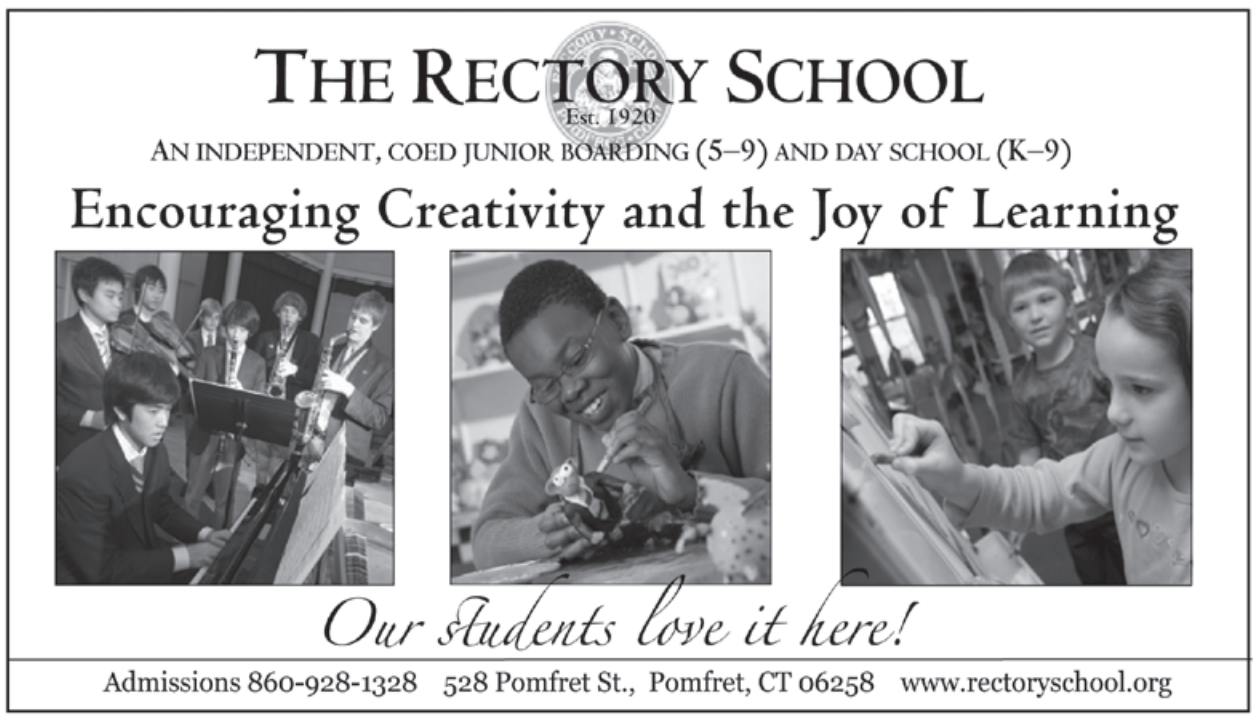
"The MARS scholarship program is what I am most proud of, especially in these hard economic times," says Smith. "Today we are getting kids who haven't needed financial aid before. But both their parents lose their jobs and they need the help. We also have gotten kids from Willimantic who are in the court system. They need to get involved in an activity and through the TEEG Mentoring Program they come to us for lessons. Their mentors can take lessons with them. It's nice to know that we are also reaching a different demographic." Unfortunately, the scholarship money doesn't last long. "It's August and we are running out now," says Smith. "The hardest part is getting people to come to the faculty concert ... although we accept--and get--donations at any time."

Donna Grant, Executive Director of TEEG, recalls that the partnership between TEEG and MARS started when TEEG was working with a child whom they knew would benefit from fostering his interest in music. The parents couldn't afford private lessons, so TEEG supported an initial scholarship to the MARS program. Smith had started the faculty concert scholarship fund but was not comfortable determining who qualified for financial aid. "We income qualify families all the time," explains Grant. "So families apply to the MARS scholarship program and TEEG does all the paperwork. Our Mentoring Program also offsets initial costs for some students. We see if private lessons will work or not. If there's a real commitment there, then they can apply for the MARS scholarship."

Smith's has dreams for the future of the MARS program. First, is to raise more money to support the MARS scholarship fund. In addition, MARS faculty member Dr. Neely would like to begin a Saturday morning pre-school music program. Smith would also like to expand a fledgling dance program. And finally she would like to build an orchestra. There are no string instrumental programs in any of the public schools in the surrounding 11-town region. So far MARS has added violin, viola and cello lessons and, apparently, there is a MARS violin teacher who would love to start a community youth orchestra. Stay tuned...!

For more information visit www.musicatrectoryschool.org.





Equine Events

AT TYRONE FARM

Photo courtesy of Tyrone Farm

"The beauty is beyond belief," said a rider at Tyrone Farm one autumn morning, waving one arm as if to encompass the view of thousands of green acres of open land and distant views. In her other hand she held the reins to her horse, a big chestnut, which was munching grass, oblivious to the beauty that surrounded the contented animal.

BY NANCY WEISS

Tyrone Farm in Pomfret is the perfect cross of environments. With a large home as the centerpiece of an immaculately maintained property, Tyrone also features some of the best riding trails in the region. Under the eye of owner Bill McLaren and his son, Ian, their ancestral property has become a favorite destination of riders from throughout southern New England. Autumn is an especially busy time for charity rides, an historic Hunter Pace, and a colorful hunt complete with fox hounds, elegant tack and a coterie of skilled riders on beautiful horses.

Susan Boone is coordinator of Equine Events. Boone assumed her position in 2005, but for many years before was involved with the development of a remarkable equine program at the Pomfret site.

Boone, who moved to the area when her native town in Massachusetts began to feel too crowded, has a long association with Tyrone Farm. In 1991, the late Elizabeth, "Zibbs, Love, the mother of current owner, Bill McLaren, and a horsewoman herself invited Boone to set the pace for the Pomfret Hunter Pace at Tyrone Farm. Boone was delighted to become involved and now, as Tyrone celebrates its 26th annual Hunter Pace, Boone reflects with pleasure on the history of the events, which has become a valued tradition for several generations of riders.

Photo courtesy of Tyrone Farm

This year, the Hunter Pace, which will be held on October 9, will attract between 200 and 250 riders who will compete in four divisions: hunting, hill topping, trail and Junior. Proceeds from the Hunter Pace, which includes a celebratory luncheon and presentation of awards, go toward maintaining and upgrading the vast series of trails that are used for equine events. Boone noted that work has been done on muddy sections with gravel and drainage installed to improve the footing.

The trails used in the Hunter Pace and the other equine events are on either Tyrone Farm property, the scenic Airline Trail, which was formerly a railroad bed, or on the edges of several private properties. Riders cross country roads that are well marked and lightly traveled.

One of Boone's personal missions is to expand the number and types of clinics for riders of various interests and abilities. When Susan began at Tyrone, there were two or three clinics each year in spring and fall. Now there is a clinic every month with different instructors for each specialty. In small groups of three or four, riders hone their skills and develop new competencies that may lead them to other types of equine events, such as jumping or cross-country.

As Master of the Hounds of the Tanheath Hunt, Boone raises and trains nearly twenty foxhounds. When the hunt occurs and riders bedecked in their " pinks" gallop across the landscape in pursuit of a fictitious fox, really a scent dragged along the ground. To participate in a hunt, riders need specific skills. Since 2002, Boone has been offering Fox Hunting Clinics. Riding in a group is an important aspect of the hunt and horses need to lean how to behave well with others. The hunt is open to members of Tanheath and riders who enjoy hunter pace match-ups.

Eight years ago Tyrone Farm instituted a Judged Pleasure Ride series. They now offer three each year with age divisions for various groups. Each ride has four obstacles, but Boone stresses that the series focuses on relaxing rides on beautiful trails more than competition.

Enthusiasm for carriage driving is widespread. Boone offers a driving program with lunch or brunch each year. The program attracts a growing number of participants each year, adding a new twist to Tyrone Farm programs.

On October 3rd, Tyrone Farm will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Komen Connecticut Ride for the Cure, an event to raise funds to fight breast cancer. With a whopping $507,000 contributed through the ride over the past decade, organizers look forward to welcoming over 150 riders, who will raise approximately $150,000 for the cause.

As horses and riders wend their way through the leafy woodland and open fields, many will ride in memory of women who have succumbed to breast cancer as well as others who will celebrate survivors of the disease.

While equine events can be strenuous, Boone notes that the over 50-age group is the largest and fastest growing segment of participants. Most riders at Tyrone care for their own horses rather than board them, so Boone knows she is attracting people who work with their animals every day and enjoy the bonds they develop while spending time with others who share their passion for horses.

Tyron Farm is a rural jewel. The Colonial home that graces the entrance, the renovated barn and the elegant gardens and grounds provide a central point from which to celebrate the ancient bond between horse and rider. Under the professional eye of Susan Boone, countless residents of the region and beyond get to enjoy a country ride or hunt, often while supporting an important cause.

From the early enthusiasm of Zibbs Love for using her estate as a place for horse lovers to ride the trails while supporting causes to the current involvement of her son and grandson, Tyrone Farm, where more than half a million dollars has been raised to fight breast cancer, is truly beautiful both in how it looks and the good it does. **For more information visit: www.tyronefarm.com**

Free Depression Screening

A written self-test and a confidential meeting with a mental health professional can help identify symptoms of depression. Also included this year will be questions designed to identify anxiety disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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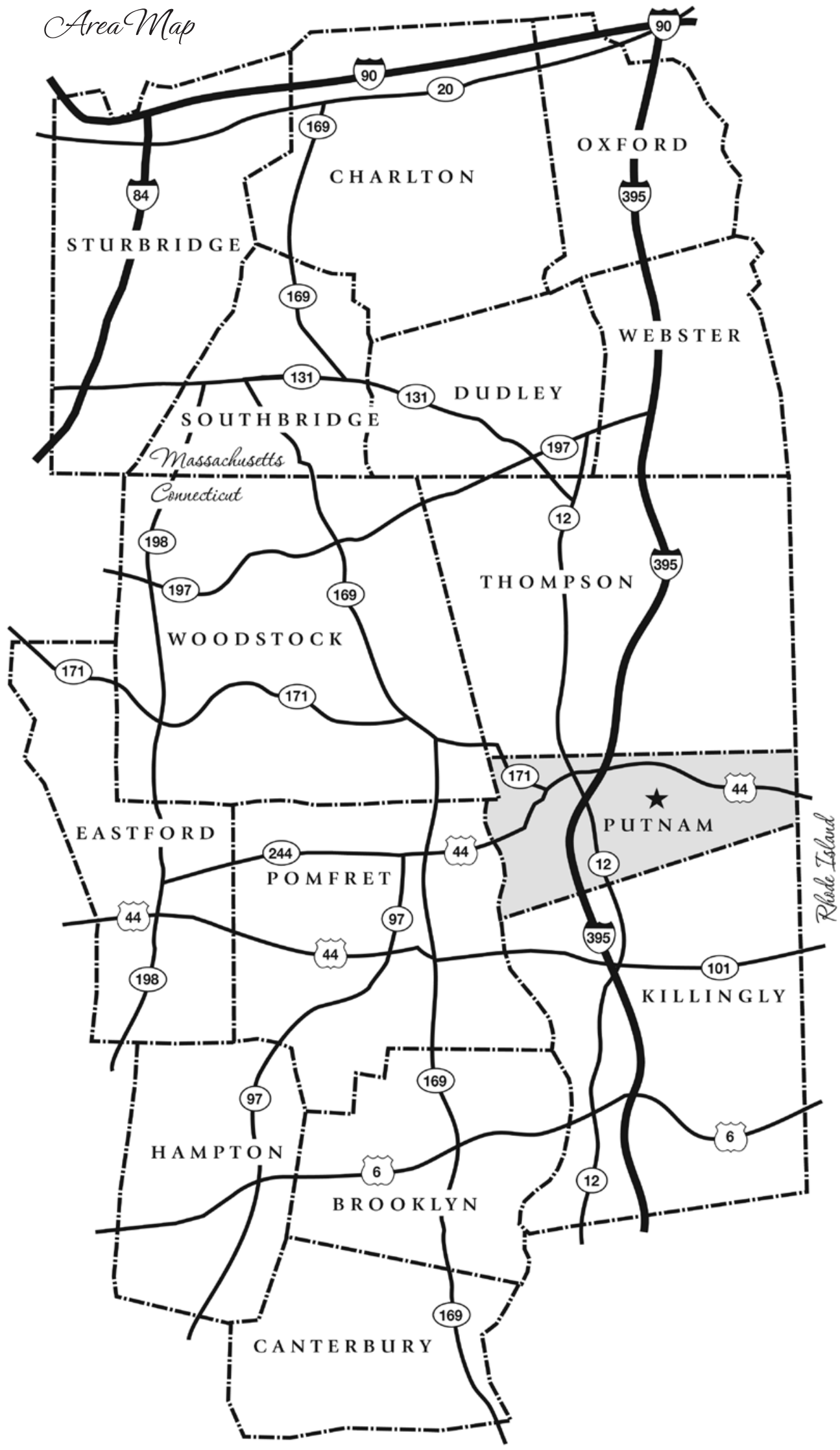

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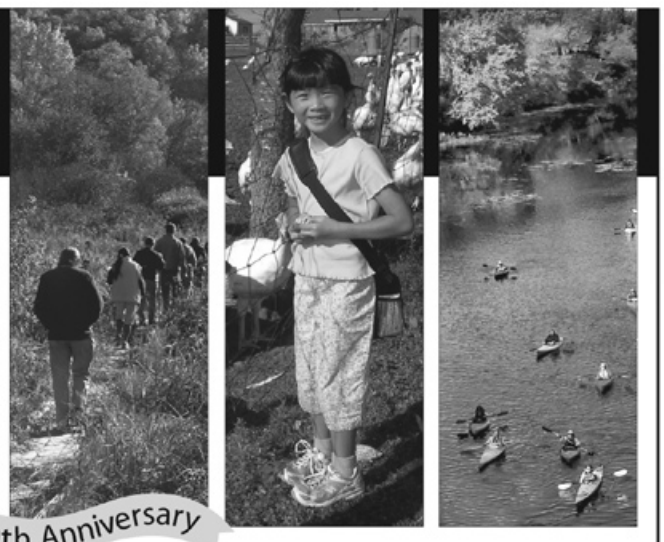

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